



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$320 Million in Available Funding for Affordable, Healthy Community Development

SACRAMENTO— The California [Strategic Growth Council](#) and the [Department of Housing and Community Development](#) today announced the availability of \$320 million in new funding for housing and community development projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The money is the latest round of funding for California's [Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities](#) (AHSC) program, and will go toward compact infill developments that encourage walking, biking, transit usage, and protect agricultural land from sprawl development and result in the reduction of greenhouse gas emission.

The AHSC program is part of California Climate Investments funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, an important part of the state's overall efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The program will provide loans or grants, or a combination of both, to projects that will achieve GHG emissions reductions and benefit disadvantaged communities by increasing accessibility of affordable housing, employment centers and key destinations through low-carbon transportation.

"To reach our goals for sharp decreases in GHG emissions, reductions will come from virtually all sectors of the economy," said SGC Executive Director, Randall Winston. "These investments and other transformative drivers help lay the foundation for the system-wide changes that are necessary."

Affordable, sustainable, walkable and bike-friendly communities lead to healthy outcomes for families:

- Affordable housing near transit corridors means less driving, more walking and biking, and cleaner air.
- Educational achievement is directly linked to housing stability.
- Families in safe and affordable housing have more income for basic living necessities, which raises their quality of life and encourages economic well-being.
- Energy-efficient, "green" building standards improve respiratory and overall general health.

“We want people to live healthier lives,” said HCD’s acting director, Susan Lea Riggs. “That’s what the AHSC program is all about ... healthier people and healthier communities.”

Eligible applicant entities include any of the following:

- A public housing authority, locality, redevelopment successor agency, transit agency or transit operator, Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), local Transportation Commissions, Congestion Management Agencies, Joint Powers Authority (JPA), school district, facilities district, University or Community College District
- A developer or program operator

To apply for loans or grants through the AHSC program, a complete original concept proposal must be submitted to HCD using the Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST) system no later than **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2016**. Invited applicants must submit a complete original full application using the FAAST system, plus one hard copy excel workbook, to HCD no later than **5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 20, 2016**.

The AHSC Program’s full application forms, workshop details, and related program information, are posted on the [HCD website](#). Questions may be directed to the AHSC Program at 916.263.2771 or emailed to ahsc@hcd.ca.gov.

These projects are part of the California Climate Investments, which use proceeds from the state’s cap-and-trade auctions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while providing a variety of additional benefits to California communities. For more information on California Climate Investments visit www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auctionproceeds/auctionproceeds.htm.

The Strategic Growth Council (the Council, or SGC) was created in 2008 by Senate Bill 732 (Steinberg). The SGC brings together agencies and departments within the Business, Consumer Services and Housing; Transportation; Natural Resources; Health and Human Services; Food and Agriculture; and Environmental Protection Agencies, with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and three public members to coordinate activities that support sustainable communities emphasizing strong economies, social equity and environmental stewardship. More information on the SGC can be found at www.sgc.ca.gov. More information on the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program can be found here. https://www.sgc.ca.gov/s_ahscprogram.php

The California Department of Housing and Community Development is dedicated to the preservation and expansion of safe and affordable housing so more Californians have a place to call home. Our team works to ensure an adequate supply of housing for Californians and promotes the growth of strong communities through its leadership, policy and program development. For more information, please visit www.hcd.ca.gov

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